



Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer's Forum
United Kingdom

Strategic Direction and Priorities 2008-2011

Progress Report – May 2009

Local Supervising Midwifery Officer's Forum United Kingdom Strategic Direction and Priorities 2008-2011

Annual update report May 2009

The Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer's (LSAMO) Forum UK has reviewed progress against the Strategic Direction 2008-11, after its first year of publication.

The LSAMO Forum UK has and will continue to engage with its key interest groups and stakeholders; including women and their families, the public, midwife registrants, employers, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and other statutory bodies and organisations specific to each of the four countries of the United Kingdom. We will also maintain our relationships with organisations such as the National Patient Safety Agency, Quality Improvement Scotland, Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health, Higher Education Institutions and the Royal Colleges. This will ensure that there is an understanding of their views and priorities, in relation to the statutory supervision of midwives and midwifery practice.

LSA audits have highlighted that for most women and their families and for the majority of the general public, professional regulation is not a matter of immediate interest. Women who access midwives expect there to be checks in place which ensure that there are good standards of conduct and practice. Often, interest in the system of regulation only comes about when something is perceived to have gone wrong. User engagement therefore is particularly challenging in this area. The LSAMO Forum UK wishes to continue to develop formal structures to demonstrate that the statutory supervision of midwives and midwifery practice is being undertaken effectively.

Work plan activity to date 2008 -2009

- **LSA audits of the supervision of midwives and midwifery practice**

Each LSA is required to audit the standards for the supervision of midwives and midwifery practice on an annual basis (NMC 2004). The LSAMO Forum UK has taken the opportunity to review the different audit methodologies currently utilised by each LSA. Following this review, agreement has been reached to use a portfolio of methods to conduct LSA audits, which will allow each LSA the flexibility to adapt and adopt an approach based on local needs.

- **LSAMO Forum UK website**

Work has started in developing a UK wide website to ensure that consistent information is available to all supervisors of midwives, midwives and service users located at www.midwife.org.uk.

- **The LSA National Database**

The database facilitates the timely uploads of the intention to practise forms, its' potential continues to be explored.

- **National LSA Policies and Guidelines**

All national LSA policies and guidelines were reviewed in January 2009 and are currently available on the LSAMO Forum UK website at www.midwife.org.uk. A formal archiving process is also in place.

- **LSA national conference**

The conference planning team are currently preparing the conference for April 2010. Information and booking forms are available at <http://www.jmdevents.co.uk/>. Good Practice Seminars will continue to be part of the agenda, to encourage the sharing of good practice between supervisors of midwives throughout the UK.

- **NMC Standards for LSAs**

Each LSA submits an annual report, which complies with NMC guidance in relation to Rule 16 of the NMC Rules and Standards (NMC 2004). Regular discussion and exchange of good practice at the LSAMO Forum, regarding achievement of the standards, supports a consistent, proactive approach to the statutory function. The LSA annual reports are available online at <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2438>

- **Supervisory investigations**

The Forum has reviewed the guideline for supervisors of midwives involved in supervisory investigations, carried out on behalf of the LSA. The guideline supports supervisors of midwives in the investigation of concerns regarding midwifery practice, including serious untoward incidents.

- **Representation, networks and relationships**

The Forum has members on key UK, national and local working groups and we also work closely with the Midwifery Advisers from the respective government departments and from the NMC. The Forum continues to exhibit and present at relevant conferences; including the ICM, RCM, NMC and also the Student Midwife NMC conference, providing the local and national perspective.

- **Publications**

The Forum has produced a number of documents with the purpose of informing key stakeholders about statutory supervision of midwives. These publications can be accessed at www.midwife.org.uk.

Responding to NMC Supervision, support and safety – Analysis of the 2007-08 LSA Annual reports to the NMC (2008)

The Forum is in the process of reviewing and implementing the recommendations made in this report (see appendix one for recommendations).

Available online <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aDisplayDocument.aspx?documentID=5235>

Work plan 2009-10

Work plan
Implement the recommendations made by the NMC in their 07/08 report (Appendix one).
Ensure that the policies and guidelines produced by the LSAMO forum are implemented fully into everyday supervisory practice.
Jointly review and discuss the 54 standards for LSAs after the NMC LSA reviews have been completed for 2009 and to ensure consistency of interpretation and implementation for all LSAs.
Ensure evidence based practice continues to be implemented into contemporary midwifery practice in a timely manner.
Benchmarking criteria in relation to LSA audit findings need to be identified and agreed. Consistency of evidence needs to be agreed before benchmarking can be undertaken.
Develop a method of capturing developing themes and trends within midwifery practice and the supervision of midwives more responsively.
Develop a core UK statistics proforma.
Continue to raise profile of LSAMO Forum (UK) at conferences outwith midwifery (maternity commissioners).
Develop leadership skills of the supervisors of midwives.
Raise the profile of the LSAMO Forum by producing publications in midwifery journals.
Continue to monitor and discuss supervisory investigations.
Develop stronger links with HEIs.
Review and implement new NMC standards.
Assess the competency of existing Supervisors of Midwives in relation to NMC standards for the preparation and practice of supervisors of midwives.
As a UK Forum disseminate and monitor and audit the application of the NMC standards for supervised practice.

Appendix One

NMC Recommendations for LSAs for 09/10

1. LSAs should have a robust planning and recruitment strategy to ensure that there are enough supervisors of midwives to meet requirements and enhance safety and support for women and babies using maternity services.
2. LSAs should audit response times from supervisors of midwives to requests for advice from midwives in challenging situations.
3. LSAs should provide details of action taken and evidence of progress in response to risks communicated to them by the NMC.
4. LSAs should feed back to Higher Education Institutions, education commissioners and the NMC any concerns related to the clinical learning environment for student midwives.
5. LSAs should monitor and report any concerns about the competency of newly qualified midwives to the NMC.
6. LSAs should explore collaborative working with other organisations that have safety remit, such as the National Patient Safety Agency.
7. LSAs should develop and report on action plans in response to any trend that impacts adversely on:
 - The safety of women and babies using maternity services
 - The ability of midwives to provide safe, quality care to women during the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal periods
 - The ability of midwives to mentor student midwives to ensure competent applicants to the Register
8. LSAs should move to an electronic method of storing supervision related data that uses a standard data set agreed by the LSA UK Forum.
9. LSAs should explore working with organisations that have a safety remit, such as the NPSA in order to address the concerns raised in relation to poor practice.